

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3 as follows:

In some embodiments, alternative polymers, which are at least as hydrophilic as PEG and PEO (i.e., having the Hildebrand parameter δ of about $9.9 \text{ (cal/cm}^3)^{1/2}$ or higher) can be used for making the topcoat layer 4 and the finishing coat layer 5. Examples of such alternative hydrophilic polymers include hyaluronic acid, poly(2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate), heparin, poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), chondroitin sulfate, chitosan, glucosaminoglycans, dextran, dextrin, dextran sulfate, cellulose acetate, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, cellulotics, ~~poly~~poly(propylene glycol), poly(ethylene oxide-co-propylene oxide) (e.g., PLURONIC available from BASF Corp. of Parsippany, New Jersey), poly(trimethylene glycol), poly(tetramethylene glycol), polypeptides, polyacrylamide, polyacrylimide, poly(ethylene amine), and poly(allyl amine). To allow renal clearance of hydrophilic polymers other than PEG, the hydrophilic polymer that can be used can have molecular weight between about 10,000 and 40,000 Daltons, for example, about 30,000 Daltons.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 5 as follows:

Thermal transitions can be detected by submitting the polymer blend to thermal analysis. Any standard method of thermal analysis ~~can be used~~, for example, differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), can be used. Those having ordinary skill in the art can determine which hydrophilic polymer(s) are miscible with the selected hydrophobic polymer(s).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 15 as follows:

Other therapeutic substances or agents which may be appropriate include alpha-interferon; ~~genetically engineered epithelial cells;~~ and rapamycin (available from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals of Madison, New Jersey, under the name sirolimus), tacrolimus, and dexamethasone. Structural derivatives or functional analogs of rapamycin, such as 40-O-(2-hydroxy)ethyl-rapamycin (known by the trade name of EVEROLIMUS available from Novartis), 40-O-(3-hydroxy)propyl-rapamycin, 40-O-[2-(2-hydroxy)ethoxy]ethyl-rapamycin, and 40-O-tetrazole-rapamycin, can also be used.